

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for signing an electronic document, the method comprising:
establishing an electronic signature appearance for an electronic signature, where:
_____ the electronic signature appearance ~~comprising~~comprises a visual manifestation of a
signer's signature on the electronic document and includes a plurality of layers including a first
validity layer for presentation of a dynamic validity graphic, an appearance layer for presentation
of the visual manifestation of the signer's signature, and a second validity layer above the first
validity layer for presentation of an invalidity graphic; and
the electronic signature ~~comprising~~comprises code derived from a signed electronic document and a private key;
determining a bounding region on the electronic document for the display of the electronic signature appearance;
at the time of electronically signing the electronic document, previewing the electronic signature appearance in the bounding region, where the electronic signature appearance can be edited based on a user input after previewing the electronic signature appearance and before electronically signing the electronic document; and
signing the electronic document with the electronic signature, the electronic signature appearance being included in the electronic document signed with the electronic signature;
_____ wherein, prior to validation of the electronic signature, a default validity graphic is presented
in the first validity layer and if the electronic signature is validated then the electronic signature
appearance dynamically changes to present a validity graphic in the first validity layer reflecting
the validation and if the electronic signature is invalidated, then the electronic signature

appearance dynamically changes to present an invalidity graphic in the second validity layer reflecting the invalidation.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
configuring the electronic signature appearance at the time of signing the electronic document.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein configuring the electronic signature appearance comprises interacting with a user signing the electronic document.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein configuring the electronic signature appearance comprises:
receiving user input activating controls for controlling textual and graphic elements included in the electronic signature appearance.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the controls comprise one or more of checkboxes and buttons.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein previewing the electronic signature appearance includes previewing a display in a configuration dialog box of the electronic signature appearance within the bounding region and the controls for controlling textual and graphic elements.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein previewing the electronic signature appearance includes displaying the electronic signature appearance within the bounding region on a display of the electronic document.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
including in the electronic signature appearance textual elements automatically copied from a certificate of a user signing the electronic document.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

establishing an electronic signature appearance comprises receiving user input selecting an electronic signature appearance from one or more existing electronic signature appearances.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

establishing an electronic signature appearance comprises interacting with a user to create an electronic signature appearance.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

establishing an electronic signature appearance comprises receiving an electronic signature appearance pre-configured by an author of the electronic document to be signed.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a bounding region on the electronic document for the electronic signature appearance comprises interacting with a user signing the electronic document to establish the bounding region.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, previewing the electronic signature appearance comprises previewing the electronic signature appearance configured to fit within the bounding region.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the bounding region on the electronic document for the electronic signature appearance comprises establishing a bounding region pre-set by an author of the electronic document.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining an optimal layout of the electronic signature appearance based on the dimensions of the bounding region.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining optimal dimensions of the bounding region based on the electronic signature appearance.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a machine-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

establish an electronic signature appearance for an electronic signature for an electronic document to be signed, where:

_____ the electronic signature appearance ~~comprising~~comprises a visual manifestation of a signer's signature on the electronic document and includes a plurality of layers including a first validity layer for presentation of a dynamic validity graphic, an appearance layer for presentation of the visual manifestation of the signer's signature, and a second validity layer above the first validity layer for presentation of an invalidity graphic; and

the electronic signature ~~comprising~~comprises code derived from a signed electronic document and a private key;

determine a bounding region on the electronic document for the display of the electronic signature appearance;

at the time a user is electronically signing the electronic document, display a preview of the electronic signature appearance in the bounding region, where the electronic signature appearance can be edited based on a user input after displaying a preview of the electronic signature appearance and before interaction with a user to electronically sign the electronic document; and

interact with a user to sign the electronic document with the electronic signature, the electronic signature appearance being included in the electronic document signed with the electronic signature;

_____ wherein, prior to validation of the electronic signature, a default validity graphic is presented in the first validity layer and if the electronic signature is validated then the electronic signature appearance dynamically changes to present a validity graphic in the first validity layer reflecting the validation and if the electronic signature is invalidated, then the electronic signature appearance dynamically changes to present an invalidity graphic in the second validity layer reflecting the invalidation.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising instructions operable to:

configure the electronic signature appearance at the time of signing the electronic document.

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the instructions operable to configure the electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to interact with the user signing the electronic document.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein instructions operable to configure the electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to:

receive user input activating controls for controlling textual and graphic elements included in the electronic signature appearance.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the controls comprise one or more checkboxes and buttons.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein instructions operable to display a preview of the electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to display in a configuration dialog box the electronic signature appearance within the bounding region and the controls for controlling textual and graphic elements.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein instructions operable to display a preview of the electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to display the electronic signature appearance within the bounding region on a display of the electronic document.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising instructions operable to:

include in the electronic signature appearance textual elements automatically copied from a certificate of a user signing the electronic document.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein instructions operable to establish an electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to receive user input selecting an electronic signature appearance from one or more existing electronic signature appearances.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein instructions operable to establish an electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to interact with a user to create an electronic signature appearance.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein instructions operable to establish an electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to receive an electronic signature appearance pre-configured by an author of the electronic document to be signed.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein instructions operable to determine a bounding region on the electronic document comprise instructions operable to interact with a user signing the electronic document to establish the bounding region.

29. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein instructions operable to display a preview of the electronic signature appearance comprise instructions operable to display a preview of the electronic signature appearance configured to fit within the bounding region.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein instructions operable to determine a bounding region on the electronic document for the electronic signature appearance comprise instruction operable to establish a bounding region pre-set by an author of the electronic document.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising instructions operable to:

determine an optimal layout of the electronic signature appearance based on the dimensions of the bounding region.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising instructions operable to:

determine optimal dimensions of the bounding region based on the electronic signature appearance.